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#### STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR BENSON

CONCORD, NH - Governor Benson announced the release of a new report today on air pollution transport and its impact on New Hampshire. Attorney General Peter W. Heed and Commissioner Michael P. Nolin of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) joined the Governor in releasing this report, which presents an eye-opening assessment of the impacts of air pollution from out-of-state sources on New Hampshire's public health and economy. Though scientific research has already shown that air pollution blows with the wind over great distances, the full effects of this pollution on states like New Hampshire are only now being defined and quantified.

"Direct health-related costs to New Hampshire from transported air pollution due to out-of-state sources are estimated to exceed \$1 billion per year," said Benson. "New Hampshire has been at the forefront of reducing air pollution from sources within our borders. It is now time for similar actions to be taken regionally and nationally to ensure that our citizens and businesses are protected from air pollution transported from upwind areas."

The report, titled Air Pollution Transport and How It Affects New Hampshire, was produced by DES to show how air pollution from upwind sources affects New Hampshire and to quantify health-related and other impacts on the state's residents. According to the report, New Hampshire experiences an average of ten days per year when the air quality is officially categorized as unhealthy. During periods of unhealthy air quality for ozone and small particle pollution, approximately 92 percent to nearly 100 percent of this pollution comes from sources located outside of New Hampshire, based on technical analysis.

"Ozone, small particles, mercury, and the pollutants that cause acid rain and regional haze may be transported very efficiently for hundreds to thousands of miles to downwind states, like New Hampshire," said Commissioner Nolin. "Since these pollutants do not recognize state or other political boundaries, strong regional and national actions are necessary to get upwind areas to take responsibility for the pollution that they create."

The report also examines and compares various proposals and actions being considered at the federal level to address the problem of air pollution transport. The report describes

the effects of these proposals and looks at certain federal clean air laws and regulations that are not being consistently enforced and are in jeopardy of being weakened.

Attorney General Heed said, "I commend Commissioner Nolin for further defining a problem that my office is currently battling in federal courts throughout the country. Bringing both industry and federal regulators to task for failing to fully enforce current clean air laws is one of my highest priorities."

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